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Re : A Demonstration in Lvov in April 1966

Date : 16 Jun 1966

Following information was obtained from an American tourist of Ukrainian descent of Rutherford, N.J., an engineer by profession who visited Warsaw early June 1966 and met there for one day his sister from Lvov, Ukr SSR :

1. People's spirit in Lvov and in the Ukraine is quite good. Recent arrests did not break down population's morale. On the contrary. As a proof of that Source told the story about a demonstration that took place in Lvov in April 1966. According to the Source people in Lvov had learned that two of those arrested the KGB was to transport from one prison to another. On that day a crowd gathered in front of the prison and waited for prisoners. The KGB decided to postpone the transport but the crowd remained waiting. Some people waited day and night. On the third day the KGB decided to transfer the prisoners. The crowd gathered again, surrounded the car in which the two prisoners were held, and threw flowers upon them. Militia and plainclothesmen used fire-hoses to disperse the crowd. People started to shout at policemen calling them liars, and other names.

The impact of the demonstration was very strong. Everybody talked about it and the news spread fast to other cities and parts of the Ukraine. The KGB and regime-people were taken aback by what happened and did not know how to react. So far they made no new moves, and the population was quite elated.

2. The Source from Lvov knew about protests in the West against the arrests of Svitlychny and his colleagues. Most people know about it who listen to the radio (foreign broadcasts). According to her many more people were arrested, mainly students. She did not name, however, anybody else.

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3. Living standard has remarkably improved after Krushchev's removal. There is enough food; even butter, meat, and flour are available. So far "the political air " is also not worse than before. Still , she could "breath the difference between Poland and the Soviet Union".